The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, organized labor, legislation, the courts, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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"Open" Shop Is Non-Union Says Injunction Judge

Minneapolis, June 19.—The "open" shop subterfuge is so apparent that Injunction Judge Fish refuses to accept the term without making it clear that it means non-unionism.

In issuing an injunction against organized workers picketing a non-union meat market in this city, Judge Fish said that the record in the case "presents a direct issue between those who strive for the maintenance of the open shop and the advocates of the 'open' or non-union plan on the other."

Editor Cramer of the Labor Review comments: "Judge Fish is a court that would deny workers' rights, but who refuses to be fooled by pretty terms. The labor editor says:

"So far as it has been judicially determined that the citizens' alliance and the associated business men's association are liars, for they maintain that the open shop is not a non-union shop. And the judge decides that it is."

Judge Fish will shortly retire from the bench to write a history of Lincoln, and Editor Cramer predicts that the biographer will condemn Lincoln for freeing the chattel slaves "and beyond a question, had Judge Fish been holding court in the sixties he would have enjoined the liberator from writing the emancipation proclamation."

POOR LABOR SUPERVISION BLAMED FOR FREIGHT JAM

Washington, June 19.—Faulty supervision of labor and not the failure of railroad employees to work is the contributing cause of the general demoralized condition of the railroads, illustrated in the freight congestion, according to a representative of the interstate commerce commission, who is directing freight movements through the nation's capital.

"I have found," said this official, "that there has been an indifference on the part of everybody to blame labor for freight tie-ups and like conditions of the railroads. From my own observation somebody has been passing the buck to labor in this case, as the fault lies not in the unwillingness of the men to perform their work, but in the lack of proper direction and supervision.

"There is a failure to give explicit orders for the work to be done and to see that men are doing them, but no directions as to how they must be solved.

"The conditions in this city probably are the same as elsewhere, and proper direction and supervision for the men who are working would go a very long way toward solving some of the railroads' difficulties in moving freight."

TRAINING DISABLED.

Washington, June 19. — The new law recently passed by congress provides for the promotion of vocational rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry or otherwise and their return to civil employment. There is appropriated $750,000 for the fiscal year ending June 19, 1921, and $1,000,000 annually for the two fiscal years. This money will be allotted among the states in the proportion which their population bears to the total population of the United States. The states must match the federal money to be appropriated by an equal amount. Under or vocational education will do the actual work of seeking out the injured and placing them where they may learn to earn a living. The federal board for vocational education is made up of three of its ex officio members and advisory body, and will deal directly with the state boards. Detailed work will be carried on by agency and advisory body, and will deal directly with the state boards. Vocational training is made compulsory and allowances during training. The individual injured in industry comes under the jurisdiction of the state and the responsibility for his training and rehabilitation devolves upon a state board for vocational education.

It has been estimated that between 700,000 and 800,000 workers are injured every year, and that approximately 200,000 of this number need training for new occupations.

LINE MEN ENJOINED.

Davenport, Iowa, June 19.—District Court Judge Donegan has granted the request of the People's Power company that its strike-breakers shall not be urged to quit by striking employees. Organized electrical workers are endeavoring to enforce better conditions and the strike is one of the results of inconvenience.

The injunction judge indulges in the usual claim that the strikers shall not commit murder, or do violence against the state that is reserved by statutory law. But the "meat" of the injunction is that part which prohibits the strikers "from in any way" interfering with the work of the People's Power company or its strikebreakers. The court notifies strikers that they can not "willfully" follow the strike-breakers.

WOULD LOWER H. C. OF L.

London, England, June 19. — The executive committee of the amalgamated society of carpenters resolves that following resolutions will lower living costs:

"A levy on wealth to restore the national credit by reducing the monstrous war debt; the abandonment of all militarist and imperialistic schemes and drastic reduction of expenditure on armaments; the acquisition for the community of the great monopolies, lands, railways, mines, shipping.

STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

South Bend, Ind., June 19.—Stove mounters who work in the factories of the K. & M. shop have advanced from 12 per cent. Day workers are also advanced.

EIGHT HOURS FOR PLUMBERS.

Dunkirk, N. Y., June 19.—The eight-hour day and a wage advance from $5.50 to $7 a day has been secured by the Plumbers' union.

PRINTING TRADES GAIN.

Pittsfield, Mass., June 19.—A wage increase of 23 per cent has been secured by the Typographical and the Printing Pressmen's unions.

RAILROADS HARD HIT BY BASIC PROFITEERS

Washington, June 19.—Profiteering in the basic industries has cost the railroads of this country at least $400,000,000 in the past three years, said W. Jett Lauck, consulting economist of the railroad labor organizations, in a report transmitted to the railroad labor board. If this profiteering is not checked, it is stated, the people will be gouged an additional $1,000,000,000 during 1921 and 1922.

The report lines 12 per cent as the profiteering tribute which the railroads have paid to the owners of coal, petroleum, steel and steel products, and to car and locomotive manufacturers and builders.

Mr. Lauck quotes a letter written by John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the railroads and director of finances of the railroad administration, in which he charges made by him of the earnings of the steel trust and the Locomotive Builders' company. Mr. Williams said, in part:

"The statement shows that the United States steel corporation in 1918 exacted profits from the government, allies and its other customers sufficient to enable it to earn 16 per cent (exclusive of bond and profits taxes) on its entire capital stock—$368,000,000.

"The statement shows also how unjustified is the claim of this corporation that it could not make further reduction in the price of steel rails and other fabricated products without impinging upon the wages paid to labor. As a matter of fact, the corporation in 1918 could have doubled the wages paid to all of its men, from president to water boy, and still have had a net income sufficient to enable it to pay 7 per cent on its common stock.

"I also hand you, with this, a memorandum analyzing the earnings of the Locomotive company for 1918, showing that that company could have made a reduction in its prices of about $20 a ton on its products and still have had earnings enough to pay about 7 per cent on its capital stock."

EXTEND MEDICAL SCIENCE.

London, England, June 19.—Proposals to establish a national medical service whereby the public would have ready access to the resources of modern medical science, are contained in a report issued by the consultative council of medical and allied services.

It is stated that the present organization of medical men is liable to bring the advantages of medical science within reach of the people, and that a full state medical service is inadvisable. It is therefore proposed to establish:

First—Primary health centers in local authorities for curative and preventive work. Cottage hospitals could be adopted.

Second—Secondary centers in each large town (with big central hospitals as nucleus) for care and cure of cases not suitable for home.

Third—A new type of local health authority with a medical advisory service.

The treatment would be open, free, and compulsory for all classes of the community. It is agreed that doctors should be paid for attending their own patients at their own homes or at their surgeries, but this should be dealt with by a primary health center, having various other functions, particularly provision for midwifery, an optical department, a laboratory for simple investigations, a dispensary, medical baths and a meeting place for the general practitioners in the district and for the storage of clinical records on an agreed and standardized basis.

WELFARE WORK NOT SCIENTIFIC

Boston, June 19.—"One of the great troubles with so-called welfare work in factories or industrial establishments is that it is wanting in character," says the Shoe Workers' Journal.

"It proceeds from the top without taking the trouble to find out what things in the shape of benefits are desired by the employes, or will be appreciated when provided.

"It has been estimated that between 700,000 and 800,000 workers are injured every year, and that approximately 200,000 of this number need training for new occupations.

PRESENT BENEFIT PLAN.

East Liverpool, Ohio, June 19.—Employers and employes met here yesterday and spent the day discussing the tentative draft of a sick, disability and old age pension plan that will be maintained by both parties. Any one connected with the industries will be eligible to the fund. The government of the fund will be vested in a board of trustees, which shall be appointed by the two employers' organizations and one-half of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, affiliated with the A. F. of L. After the pension plan has been accepted by representatives of both employers and employes it will be submitted to a referendum. It is hoped the plan will be in operation next August.

PAINT USERS SWINDLED.

Austin, Texas, June 19.—Adulteration of linseed oil from 15 to 40 per cent of kerosene is being practiced by users of paint products in this state large sums of money according to H. B. Hoffman, jr., head of the Texas pure food and drug department.

The state official says that the adulteration is widespread. Kerosene is sold for around $2 a gallon and is sold for around $3 a gallon after it is mixed with linseed oil.

MILL MEN PAID $8.

San Francisco, June 19.—Organized wood mill workers in this city and vicinity have established a scale of $8 per day for a eight-hour order work on sashes and doors. Employes in stock work are paid, on the request of municipal employes for wage increases. The expert previously said that his wage had raised $28 a month.

PAPER WORKERS UNITE.

Gardenburg, N. Y., June 19.—Local unions of pulp, sulphite and paper mill workers have been organized here and at Vincent.

"FREEDOM" IN KANSAS.

Topeka, Kan., June 19.—The Kansas Trades Unionist prints a communication received by it in a letter signed by T. B. Kelley, chairman of the vigilance committee of the American legion post, of Great Bend, in which notice is given to members of the nonpartisan league that they can not hold a demonstration at Ellinwood.

The letter was written when Governor Allen was in Chicago placing in nomination a candidate for the presidency, who, he said, would stand for "100 per cent America."

The letter was directed to George Kibbe, nonpartisan league organizer, and is as follows:

"This is to inform you that at a meeting of our post here last night at which over 75 members were in attendance, besides several members of the U. S. A., Spanish-American war veterans and members of the Great Bend chamber of commerce, the decision was unanimously reached that the nonpartisan league demonstration would not be tolerated at Ellinwood next Tuesday. We do not desire any violence, and so take this means of informing you of what we intend to do.

"A delegation from here, consisting of the above and many more, and of legion men and other good patriotic citizens from St. John, Stafford, Macksville, Hoisington, Claflin and Larned will be on hand to see that the N. P. L. demonstration is not put on, as advertised, or in any other form.

"If you will inform us that the meeting has been called off, it will save the trouble of our making a trip to your town."

RENT GOUGERS CHECKED.

New York, June 19.—Rent-profiteering legislation, passed by the last legislature, has been upheld on the ground of public interest by a unanimous decision of the supreme court, Brooklyn district.

A prosecution, through attorneys, held that these laws impaired the obligation of contracts and were contrary to the United States constitution.

Considering this theory, Justice Kelby held, in effect, that the federal constitution does not limit the power of the state to protect the health, morals or safety of the public and that the rent laws were enacted at the command of all of these public considerations.

Advocates of the law point to the far-reaching effect of this decision. The New York World says:

"The rights of private property in land or housing are not absolute. They have always been subject to the public right of eminent domain. Property rights, properly protected, sustained by the judgment, they become, under circumstances of urban congestion, further subject to the public power of regulation as property of a peculiar character affected with a public interest, similar to public service monopolies.

"The case may be carried alone even to the court of last resort at Washington, but there seems to be no reason for supposing it will meet with any other disposition than this."

Republican Party Platform Ignores Workers' Rights

Montreal, Quebec, June 19.—In a report by President Gompers and Vice President Wolt to the A. F. of L. convention, which is the highest national platform it is declared that the heritage left to that party by Abraham Lincoln "is embodied in the platform, which embraces every opportunity to strengthen the concept of repression and coercion of the working people."

The report says that the result of the presentation by the two trade union officials of labor's demands in the platform committee of the republican party convention in Chicago. These demands were insisted, that A. F. of L. convention unanimously endorsed the platform as a document "defiant in its defense of the enemies of labor" and one that "represents an industrial slavery and an abrogation of rights as precious as life itself."

Not a delegate raised his voice in defense of the platform, which was condemned by many speakers, on the ground that it:

Remains silent on the right of wage earners to organize trade unions and bargain collectively.

Denies labor any share in the cost of living and denies the importance of profiteering.

Denies lawful right of workers to cease working in the plank on arbitration of wage disputes.

Denies request to include the seamen's act.

Refuses to take a stand against child labor.

Aims to undermine the sovereignty of the American people and "fulfill the hopes and aims of those who object to the expiration of the Monroe doctrine and the boundless resources of Mexico."

This last is an extension of federal compensation law or the election of federal judges by the people for six-year terms.

Fails to urge congressional legislation to prevent injunctions and usurpation of authority in declaring unconstitutional acts passed by legislatures.

Threatens the right of the people to bring action against the administration and laws of the government by peaceful means, as is being used by the constitution.

President Gompers and Vice President Wolt recommend to present to the democratic national convention the demands of labor in the identical form in which they were submitted to the republican convention.

New York, June 19.—In an analysis of the industrial planks of the republican national platform, John J. O'Leary, jr., New York World correspondent, writes this paragraph in his report:

"On first blush, labor would seem to have the best of the planks in the platform dealing with industrial conditions. It is very clear that the builders sought to phrase and to the extent that the superficial reader may be impressed with the thought that they have been very liberal with labor, they have succeeded. On careful reading, however, any student of the relations of labor has been given the honors disappears.

"The impression of important concessions to labor will be based on the failure of the committee to endorse the Esch-Cummins railroad law which Samuel Gompers and his associates have been bitterly denounced, and to the declaration against compulsory arbitration in disputes between capital and labor. The concession, however, is more apparent than real, for while compulsory arbitration is specifically disavowed, the principle of state intervention is not denied.

"So also in the railroad bill against which labor protested so vigorously, there is no mention, presumably other than railroads, much the same machinery for discouraging if not preventing strikes is contained and the report made that tribunals to be established shall not assist in settling the dispute so long as men are on strike. In effect this says to labor, you may keep your old strike but we are in favor of taking the edge off its teeth.

"Similarly, the plank dealing with strikes and lockouts is so phrased as to permit and encourage the injunctions in labor disputes.

"In effect it voices approval of Attorney General Palmer's action in the miners' strike. Under it a repetition of the operation of which duplicate Mr. Palmer's bitterly denounced action could be invoked call back upon it in defense and justification.

"'Wage strike or lockout as a means of settling industrial disputes inflicts such loss and injury to the community as to justify government initiative to reduce its frequency and limit its consequences.'

"If that plank means anything it means that the limit in the attempts by law or the use of injunctions against the law to keep the industrial peace.

TAMPA CIGAR MAKERS ARE RESISTING WRONG

Tampa, Fla., June 19.—Denial of the right to organize has caused thousands of cigar makers in Tampa City to suspend work.

The several unions in this industry number about 15 thousand men and these workers were immediately discharged on the ground that they are "agitators." Mediation failed to secure the reinstatement of the nightmen employed and a strike was called.

Since last December the cigar makers' union has grown in membership from 2,000 to 3,000. In addition there are 4,000 unorganized factory workers, strippers, banders and factory clerks who are idle and who are depending upon the unions for support.

Comparatively speaking, a handful of these strikers are affiliated directly with the A. F. of L. and the American federation of labor organization. The financial burden of the strike, however, is being borne by the Cigar Makers' International union, which has appealed to the trade union movement to aid it in defending an American right. The executive council of the A. F. of L. has sent organizers to Tampa.

The cigar makers are conducting their strike under conditions that can not be appreciated by trade unionists in many sections of this country. Millions of dollars have been poured into the coffers of business men because of the cigar industry, and the manufacturers generally have been doing the same thing since the beginning of the seven month's strike of 1910-1911. At that time two cigar makers were arrested on a charge of murder, and the next morning their bodies were found hanging to the limbs of trees in the suburbs of the city. These other cigar makers were charged with murder and the grand jury refused to prosecute. The judge said he regretted that he could not indict the men, and the trial judge was recently elected mayor by a majority of 41 in an election that was marked by much bitterness.

WHAT FARMERS WANT.

New York, June 19.—The farmer is thinking as never before and to the Farmers' Union is no longer a consideration, declared C. S. Barrett, for many years president of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union, in an interview published in a local newspaper. Mr. Barrett is a member of a committee representing 48 state and national boards of farm organizations to interview presidential candidates on farm legislation. The committee is seeking consideration for the farmer, Mr. Barrett said the farmers are seeking these changes:

To bring about direct dealing between the producer and consumer so that the farmer may receive a fair share of the wealth he creates.

To destroy the unfair profiteering on farm products.

To help the farmer to purchase his well-deserved home.

To have the farmer represented on national and state boards and commissions.

To appoint a secretary of agriculture who has been a farmer and understands the farmer's problems.

To correct the evil of farm tenancy.

To fix a fair return of railroad freight rates on farm products.

To enforce national control over packers who have gone into business engaged in distributing foods.

P. O. MEN FLOCK TO UNION.

Washington, June 19.—Officers of the National Association of Post Office Clerks report that 200 locals have been chartered since January 1 of last year. This sensational record was made at a time of unusual unrest among the government employes joining trade unions. The National Federation of Federal Employes reports membership gains along the same lines.

The officials have been somewhat annoyed by a so-called "union" of postal clerks that has received publicity through some other officials, but this movement has been thoroughly discredited by the bona fide post office clerks' union.

HIGHER WAGES FOR WOMEN.

Sacramento, Cal., June 19.—The minimum wage of 20,000 women employed in the fruit and vegetable packing industry of this state has increased from $12.50 a week to $16. Women fruit packers on eight eight-hours will be the rule, but green fruit and vegetable packers may work longer perforce, with time and one-half for over the eight hours.

MACHINISTS ARE ACTIVE.

Peekskill, N. Y., June 19.—Machinists along the Hudson river are arranging for a striking or strike vote on the question. At a meeting in this city a district was formed and plans were perfected.

BARBERS RAISE WAGES.

Cincinnati, June 19.—Organized barbers have raised wages $1 a week.

TRUTH IS BEST REPLY TO FANTASTIC PLANS

Montreal, Quebec, June 19.—The A. F. of L. convention has approved resolutions which the executive council that the truth about democracy and the rights of organized labor is the best reply to fantastic plans of extreme propagandists.

"The American nation has reached a grave crisis. It stands at the parting of two roads. Progress and reaction. Justice must be done. Bolshevism must be destroyed. Criminal profiteering and exploitation must cease. These things are so because the endurance of the people has been strained beyond their willingness to bear and because all of these things are possible in a democracy.

"The terrible pressure of injustice upon democracy must be removed only by the strengthening of democracy. And if the forces of greed and injustice are permitted to destroy essence of democracy that they can no longer work in normal, healthful manner, the salvation of the people of the people is the first duty of the nation to free these processes and remove those obstructions. The unrest born of need can be met and allayed only by the truth and constructive action. The program for this action has been defined by the labor movement.

"Our opponents are spending much money in propaganda of unreason and extremists can be and are deceived by truth," the council said. "But legitimate unrest, growing out of conditions of injustice and wrong, must become only by intelligent dealing with conditions. Those who drink from a poisoned well will be poisoned until the well itself is cleaned.

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PACKERS CONFUSE PUBLIC.

Washington, June 19.—The claim of large meat packers that their profit is but 1 cent a pound in order to avoid the wrath of trade commission, in its latest published report, is thus exploded by the report:

"A profit of 1 cent a pound on 10 billion pounds of the meat products sold during the year (1918) gives an aggregate return of $100,000,000," says the report.

"Even were this doubled, the resulting rate would be 2 cents, which would still tend to be a 'negligible' amount in the public mind. Yet this difference of 1 cent would mean, for the five great companies (Swift, Armour, Morris and Cudahy) $100,000,000 in possible dividends, or about 20 per cent of the capital stock and surplus combined ($550,000,000).

"Thus without the packers' profits per pound may appear to the public to be small, they are in reality, due to the enormous tonnage produced on the basis of a relatively small investment."

The commission says the packers seek to capitalize the belief on the part of the public that a cent is a very small element of value.

"As a matter of fact," says the report, "a profit of 1 cent is, so far from being a small profit, may be an exorbitant profit measured by dollars and the capital invested. The only sound method whereby the difference of 1 cent would mean